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Antipodes Editors

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Antipodes

A North American Journal
of Australian Literature

The Publication of the
American Association of
Australian Literary Studies

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About the Cover

"Wild Flower Dreaming"
1995

Emily Kame Kngwarreye
90 x 120 cm
Acrylic on cotton

Emily Kame Kngwarreye was born about 1910 at Alhalkere (Soakage Boar) Utopia Station. She was a senior artist at Utopia. From the time she painted her first canvas for "A Summer Project," her work has received widespread acclaim and recognition. In 1990, her work was shown in two highly successful solo shows in Sydney, as well as at the Art Gallery of New South Wales' "Abstraction" exhibition. Several more shows followed, and her work was rapidly acquired by major public and private collections in Australia and overseas. Emily Kame Kngwarreye died in Alice Springs, September 1996.

"Wild Flower Dreaming" depicts the range of flowers that bloom after a fall of rain and turn Alhalkere into a sea of color—a sharp contrast to the usual dry and bleak landscape. The painting suggests the growth of the wildflowers through the dominant red color gradually breaking down into the changing orange, which is the color of the surrounding soil. The beginning of growth is symbolized by the subtle use of green found in one area of the painting and clearly displays the gradual emergence of new life. The white shows the wild flowers that are a sign of growth and regeneration.

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